

HISTORY

OF

THE MANUFACTURE OF IRON  
IN ALL AGES,

AND PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES FOR  
THREE HUNDRED YEARS, FROM 1585 TO 1885.

BY

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Iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things.—Daniel, ii. 40.

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the eighteenth century. From about 1740 down to the Revolution many furnaces and other iron works were built in New Jersey. Its iron industry during the greater part of this period was exceedingly active, although hampered by restrictions imposed by the mother country. To the iron enterprises which were then built up within its borders the patriotic cause was afterwards greatly indebted for much of the iron and steel that was needed to secure its success.

Peter Hasenclever, a Prussian gentleman of distinction, who is usually referred to as Baron Hasenclever, emigrated to New Jersey about 1764, as the head of an iron company which he had organized in London, and brought with him a large number of German miners and ironworkers. His career in this country is very fully described by Dr. Tuttle in his history, and by Mr. Halsey in a letter which we have received from him. Dr. Tuttle first gives an account of the Ringwood Company, which was organized in 1740 and was principally composed of several persons named Ogden. In the year named the company purchased sixteen acres of land at Ringwood, near Greenwood lake, in Bergen (now Passaic) county, where, says Mr. Halsey, they built a furnace. In 1764 Joseph Board conveyed to the Ringwood Company a tract of land at Ringwood "near the old forge and dwelling house of **Walter Erwin**." On July 5, 1764, the Ringwood Company sold to "Peter Hasenclever, late of London, merchant," for £5,000, all of its lands and its improvements at Ringwood. The deed states that on the property there are "erected and standing a furnace, two forges, and several dwelling houses." It speaks of "Timothy Ward's forge;" also of the "old forge at Ringwood." Hasenclever also bought from various persons other tracts of land in 1764 at Ringwood and in its vicinity, and in 1765 he bought several tracts from Lord Stirling. These purchases were located at Ringwood, Pompton, Long Pond, and Charlottenburg, all in what was then Bergen county. Hasenclever also probably purchased an interest in the iron-ore mines at Hibernia. Dr. Tuttle says that "Hasenclever at once began to enlarge the old works and build new ones at each of the places just named," that is, Ringwood, Pompton, Long Pond, and Charlottenburg. It is probable that he built a furnace and one or more forges at each place.

od, while the nearness of good markets furnished a sufficient inducement to engage in the business. The bloomaries of New Jersey were Catalan forges of the German type. Many of them were blown by the *trompe*, or water-blast.

Not much progress was made, however, in the establishment of the iron industry in New Jersey until the middle of the eighteenth century. From about 1740 down to the Revolution many blast furnaces and other iron works were built. The iron industry of New Jersey during the greater part of this period was exceedingly active, although hampered by restrictions imposed by the mother country. To the iron enterprises which were then built up within its borders the patriotic cause was afterwards greatly indebted for much of the iron and steel that was needed to secure its success.

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